



News Release

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SPAWAR Leads Navy in Reserve Forces Management Improvement

By Richard Williamson, SPAWAR Public Affairs



Vice Adm. John Totushek, Commander, Naval Reserve Force, and Rear Adm. Ken Slaght, Commander, U.S. Navy Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to grant more authority to SPAWAR in processing and deploying its Naval Reservists assigned to 22 attached units.

SAN DIEGO (NNS) -- The Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR) took responsibility this summer for management of its 650 assigned Reserve members.

This significant departure from traditional Naval Reserve Force (NAVRESFOR) management practices provides SPAWAR with the ability to centrally input, process, modify and cancel annual training, active duty for training and inactive duty for training travel orders; deliver orders and travel itineraries, and manage funds; verify, draft and release clearances; pre-certify unit members; and coordinate school and training quotas.

During a July 23 ceremony, Vice Adm. John Totushek, commander, Naval Reserve Force, and Rear Adm. Ken Slaght, commander, U.S. Navy Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to grant more authority to SPAWAR in processing and deploying its Naval

Reservists assigned to 22 attached units.

"NAVRESFOR has enabled SPAWAR to be more responsive to the unique needs of our Reservists," commented Slaght. "This agreement will dramatically improve our response time and service to the Fleet."

When Navy Reservists assigned to SPAWAR began developing the MOU, they sought to improve fleet support, SPAWAR support and quality of life for the assigned Reservists, according to Cmdr. Jeff Smith, SPAWAR's outgoing reserve program director.

"SPAWAR was seeing its Reserve members being pulled in three different directions, and real-time support to the Fleet was being degraded by frustrating administrative and logistical challenges," Smith said. "We realized that central management of the Reservist by the major systems command would dramatically improve fleet support, because one organization could better ensure that members were qualified and current in their training and mandatory service requirements."

SPAWAR ensures that Reservists are trained and current in their military requirements, matches Reservists experience to Fleet support requirements for deployment and provides centralized personnel support to assigned Reserve members.

“This is a dramatic improvement in support to the Fleet and SPAWAR as well as improvement in the quality of life for our Reservists,” said Capt. Cyndi Burgunder, Smith’s relief as the SPAWAR reserve program director.

“SPAWAR makes sure that Reservists' training schedule for the year meets the Navy’s requirements by getting annual certifications accomplished early in the year,” Burgunder said.

This increases the pool of qualified Naval Reservists available for deployment or direct Fleet support throughout the year. Reservists know when mandatory training, exams, testing and certifications are scheduled and can more easily arrange their personal schedule to meet these annual military requirements. SPAWAR and the fleet get Reservists ready to serve – free of outstanding certifications or training obligations.

The 2003 fiscal year will be the first full year where this new management tool is fully used by SPAWAR and the Naval Reserve Force. SPAWAR’s Reserve Management Office will evaluate the program at the end of the fiscal year and determine where improvements may be needed.

“The Naval Reserve exists to support the Navy. By involving the gaining command directly in the process, we will increase the ability of our Reservists to meet the needs of the fleet,” said Totushek.